

Phila. Dec. 22, 79,

Dear Doctor,

I rec'd yr. postal

also letter directed to the Academy,

Yes! A Smithsonian letter will be of service to me. Should it not arrive at the Academy, but doubtless will, before I leave (see 26) why Mr Redfield would forward it to me.

I read your letter and that of Baron Egger with much interest. You have anticipated my desire to make about 15 sets of phanerogams and collect Mosses & lichens in bulk and Ferns double or triple the number to meet demand. I will not divide into sets in the field but let that until you have studied them as it will be more satisfactory to have all specimens of a species together and each species in a separate parcel.

I will avail myself of Egger's botanical knowledge especially in the determination of the more common plants. For I feel that I ought to know something of the West India Flora to <sup>do</sup> real good work. Those I have met on our own Florida coast are but a small percent and chiefly such as are found in Upper West Indies and perhaps few if any can I expect to meet as far south as Porto Rico.

To avoid therefore the more common to all the Islands as well as beyond I think the interior and mountainous country will be more promising.

I should think - taking into consideration my health and past experience in collecting

that to do the most effective service would be to locate myself with some planter sufficiently long to be kept busy collecting and drying inside I explored thoroughly country around - then move off again to some distance and where conditions would favor a different growth of plants.

Too much travelling would be to exhaust me, and often leave me in a condition that I could not attend properly to the drying, however I could not expect to meet all plants yet I will so direct my work that I shall be kept constantly busy in collecting and drying with assistance where I can secure it.

I wish now I had a copy of Griebach's British West India Flora,

If you could help me to a copy at my expense I would be obliged - for without this I don't know how I shall be able to study even the common plants.

I have the promise of my passport in good time

I will stop at St Thomas and make the acquaintance of Baron

Eggers - I have portable press wire press driers, ordinary driers and abundance of paper, so that I will not suffer in this way when I get down, I think I will have some perhaps St Thomas or St John as my permanent address and have mail matter forwarded from there to whatever point I may if possible, - on this I will decide at New York or Port-Rico and acquaint you.

Very truly Yours  
A. P. Gardner